Equal Rights

VOL. XV, No. 7
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
MARCH 23, 1929

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MAR 29 1929

Courtesy Post Publishing Co., Bridgeport, Conn.

Directing Connecticut Campaign

Elsie M. Hill of Redding, Connecticut, with her daughter Elsie Hill-Levitt, age four years and three months, February, 1929. Miss Hill, as acting chairman of the Connecticut Branch of the National Woman's Party, has had three Equal Rights bills introduced this session in the Connecticut General Assembly: (1) Jury Service for Women on Equal Terms; (2) Married Women's Choice of Domicile for Voting and Other Purposes; (3) Equal Pay and Opportunity for Teachers.

Equal Rights

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of the
National Woman's Party
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Washington, D. C.
Phone, Lincoln 1366
Published Weekly
at 19 West Chase Street
Baltimore, Md.
Phone, Vernon 3279

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Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice, Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $2.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $2.50

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY
The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT
"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."
[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]
Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1928,
by Senator Charles E. Curtis, Kansas.
Introduced in the House, May 18, 1928,
by Representative Frederick W. Magrady, Pennsylvania.

A Promising Paradox

PREMIER POINCARÉ has pledged the support of the French Government to the bill granting women municipal suffrage and the right of election to municipal councils. This is the first time that the French Government has supported any suffrage measure. The pledge was given in response to a petition signed by delegates from the great organizations of French women, who met in February as "the States-General of Feminism." It was addressed to the executive committee of the States-General through Mme. Brunschvieg, president of the Union for Woman Suffrage.

If women are to take part in the next municipal elections, the bill must become law before May 1. This would enable them at least to register and to stand for election, even if the time should prove too short for them to qualify as voters. Therefore in her letter of thanks to M. Poincaré, Mme. Brunschvicg asks him to use his power to secure a prompt report from the Senate committee which has held up the measure ever since it was passed by the Chamber of Deputies four years ago.

In France the Senate is elected indirectly, by means of "senatorial delegates." It is customary to elect as delegates men who are members of the local municipal council. M. Poincaré commits the Government to the support of the right of women to be elected to councils, "with the temporary exception of the right to serve as senatorial delegates."

The possible value of the measure as an opening wedge to full suffrage is hinted in the newspaper, *Le Temps*, which says:

"Will women be allowed to vote for Senators while they are still unable to vote for Deputies? Will they enjoy limited national suffrage and full local suffrage? Are we going to see the paradox of women promoted to the dignity of senatorial elector without being eligible to the senatorship? * * *

"The word 'temoprary' is going to arouse great hopes in the camp of the suffragists and serious alarm in the camp of the anti-suffragists, who have, as everyone knows, formed in the Senate a sort of Hindenberg line."

The Sphere of Woman

A RECENT article in the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* states that according to an analysis based on the last census which has been made by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, one million women in the United States are employed as domestic servants.

Next to the women in this classification come the 792,915 women employed as farm laborers. More than half of these are, it is true, working on their own farms. But the fact remains that they are working in the fields, besides carrying on the heavy domestic responsibilities which the farm demands.

The first fifteen occupations, in order of their popularity, make an interesting list. First, come the servants; second, the farm laborers. Then in order of the numbers in their ranks are teachers, stenographers and typists, clerks (except in stores), laundresses, saleswomen, bookkeepers and cashiers, factory workers in the clothing industries, dressmakers and seamstresses, housekeepers and stewards, telephone operators, clerks in stores, cotton mill workers and trained nurses.

One lone woman is registered as a veterinary surgeon. One woman is a welder, one a coppersmith and one a turfman or sportsman. Two women are forest rangers, two are blacksmith's apprentices and two are registered as captains or pilots of ships.

There are 279 women lumbermen; 8 women mine foremen and overseers; 1,495 women coal mine operatives, and 7 women brick and stone masons, 19 women electricians, 408 women paperhangers, 6 women plasterers, 323 women longshoremen and stevedores; 32 women sailors and deckhands, 4 women street cleaners and 6 women garbage collectors and scavengers, 253 women street car conductors and 20 women motormen, 320 women mail carriers, 2,806 women traveling salesmen; 18 women civil engineers and surveyors, and 41 women hunters, trappers and guides.

Since in these vocations outside the home it is obvious that women must be at least sufficiently competent to earn their livings, what is the present sphere of woman? May it not be confluent after all with the sphere of man, which is always assumed to be the round ball floating in space that men and women alike inhabit?

Women Demand Exemption from Night Law

THE Senate Chamber of the New York State Capitol became a battleground for an "Equal Rights" fight March 5, when the Industrial Council of the New York State Branch, National Woman's Party, spoke in favor of the Kirkland-Jenks Restaurant bill exempting women restaurant workers from the provisions of the present night work law and giving them the right to work after 10 o'clock at night and before 6 o'clock in the morning. The proposed measure was opposed by the State Department of Labor and representatives of the Consumers' League, League of Women Voters, waitresses' unions and labor organizations. The hearing, which attracted a "capacity audience" of men and women, was conducted before the labor and industries committees of both houses, with Senator Gates and Assemblyman Miller presiding.

Frances Roberts of New York City introduced the Woman's Party speakers and also made an appeal in behalf of the bill. Speaking as a restaurant worker herself, Mrs. Roberts declared that the women ask for the passage of this bill as a right and not as a privilege. She declared that in her own place of business, because of the fact that women cannot work in the early morning hours cooking and preparing the food before it is served, the women have been forced to train men to take their own places. A woman should have the same right to choose her own working hours the same way that a man does, she pointed out, and declared that if a law is good for one sex, it is equally good for the other. She emphasized the point that the Woman's Party is not opposed to protective measures, but is opposed to protection for women alone, for in that case the word becomes restriction.

Mary A. Murray, chairman of the Industrial Council, made a ringing speech heard in every corner of the Senate chamber, in which she told of her own experiences as a night worker for thirteen years, supporting a family of five children, after being left a widow by the death of her husband. As a railroad worker, she pointed out, if she had not been able to work at night and be home with her children in the day time, she might have been forced to place them in an institution. Mrs. Murray declared that after many years of night work, housework and care of her children, she still looks younger than some of the professional "uplifters" who wish to "protect" other women. Helen Schumacker, a restaurant worker of New York; Ruth Klein and Marie Adams, both of Buffalo, spoke in favor of the bill.

OPPOSITION to the measure was led by Emmanuel Govaleski of the American Federation of Labor. He introduced speakers from the Waitresses' Union, Mrs. Florence Kelly of the Consumers' League, and others who opposed the bill on the ground that it endangered the health and morals of women to work later than 10 o'clock at night.

Frances Perkins, chairman of the State Industrial Commission, in a letter presented by George C. Daniels, opposed the Kirkland-Jenks bill, declaring that no woman should be allowed to work after 10 o'clock at night. "I hold that this night work provision for restaurant women is a health measure and should be so construed," she wrote. "It is my judgment that, rather than break down the night work law at this time, we should bring more people under it this year."

Six restaurant owners from Buffalo backed up the Woman's Party speakers in favor of the bill, declaring that in their city they cannot secure a large enough number of men waiters for the catering and restaurant business and are forced at times to violate the law. They urged that women be allowed to choose their own hours of work. This delegation was headed by Fred Seames, president of the Buffalo Restaurant Owners' Association.

A large delegation of Albany members of the Woman's Party attended the hearing, headed by Emily Grace Kay Long, vice-chairman of the State branch. In the group also was Hon. Rhoda Fox Graves, only woman member of the Legislature, who sponsored the Equal Guardianship bill for the Party; Mrs. Alexander M. McEwan, Mrs. J. Archibald Clark, congressional chairman; Mrs. George Bedell, Emma Morey, president of the Albany Mothers' Club, and Christine Birrell, publicity chairman during the session. Preceding the hearing the National Woman's Party group were received by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt in the executive chambers.

Since the hearing the bill to open the jury box to women has been "killed" in committee , and the Domicile bill has passed the Assembly by a vote of 98 to 12. This marks the first time this bill has ever passed the Assembly, although it has in previous years had successful passage in the Senate. Before the vote was taken on March 7 Assemblyman Jenks spoke in its favor.

Passage of the bill in the Senate is expected and Woman's Party members are hopeful of Governor Roosevelt's signature.

Hearings on Equal Rights Bills

HEARINGS on specific Equal Rights bills have been recently given before committees of the State legislatures of Michigan and Connecticut.

A bill for equalizing the right of the married woman to contract has been introduced in the Michigan Legislature by Senator G. M. Condon, at the instance of the Michigan State Branch of the National Woman's Party, and a hearing on it was given by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 27. Rilla Nelson, chairman of the Michigan State Branch of the Woman's Party, and Laura Cramer, legislative chairman of the branch, spoke for the measure.

Representative Armstrong has introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives a bill providing for granting the mother equality with the father in the guardianship of children.

The Michigan State Branch of the Woman's Party held a dinner in honor of the Wayne County delegation to the State Legislature on February 2. Sixteen members of the Legislature attended the dinner. Judge Ormond Hunt addressed the gathering on "The Right of the Mother to the Services and Earnings of the Minor Child, and Rights to sue for Same." Judge Frank Murphy spoke on the prostitution bill, and volunteered to obtain a sponsor for the bill in the Legislature. Justice Nuenfeldt of Dearborn, Michigan, spoke on "The Right of the Married Woman to Contract."

The Legislative Committee of the Michigan State Branch of the Woman's Party met with the Legislative Council of Michigan Women in Lansing, the State Capital, on February 12 to discuss legislation to be supported by the women of Michigan.

Mrs. Ralph Collins has prepared a scrap book containing all available material covering the history of the Michigan Branch of the Woman's Party, which will prove of great value to the Michigan Branch in the future. The branch has unanimously adopted a resolution of thanks to Mrs. Collins.

The Connecticut State Branch of the Women's Party appeared at a hearing on the jury service bill, introduced at the request of the Connecticut Branch, on March 20. Mabel Foster Spinney, head mistress of Spring Hill School at Litchfield; Elsie Hill, acting chairman; and

others appeared on behalf of the bill. This hearing took place in the hall of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. Spinney also appeared in behalf of the Equal Rights for Teachers' Bill when a hearing was given it by the Education Committee. Mrs. Spinney formerly taught in the Central High School in Washington, D. C. Her father was David J. Foster, member of Congress from Vermont for ten years, and chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, and also, at another time of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

The Delaware House of Representatives has defeated the jury service bill sponsored by the Delaware State Branch of the National Woman's Party. Florence Bayard Hilles, acting State chairman, and Marie F. Lockwood, legislative chairman, appeared on behalf of the measure. Edith Spruance was also present in support of the bill. The floor leader of the House, William Virden, spoke against the measure, insisting that it would make jury service compulsory for women because it left with the judge the power to say whether or not he would excuse them. It was defeated by a vote of 25 to 7.

It was expected that the legal residence bill would come up in the Delaware Legislature during the week just ended.

Legislative Proceedings at Annapolis

By Florence Elizabeth Kennard,
Secretary of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party

THE Jury Service Bill for women in Maryland was debated and voted on in the General Assembly at Annapolis on Tuesday, March 12, at 1 P. M. Representatives in large numbers from the various women's organizations were present in the Senate Chamber.

Senator Harry O. Levin in presenting the bill before the Senate made a very able and forcible argument in its favor, urging his colleagues to forget their sentiments and vote on the merits of the bill, which would not only permit women to serve on the jury but would also correct the glaring inaccuracies of the present jury law. He at some length pointed out the faults of the present law and went on to say that women are able to give sound judgment the same as men—that juries are fact finders, and then asked: "Are men endowed with special facilities as fact finders? Will women make good jurors? Do all men make good jurors?" Senator Levin then read favorable comments from judges in whose courts women are sitting as jurors and went on to say: "One of the arguments against the bill is that some women have no sense—this is equally true of some men—the Lord made a foolish woman to match every foolish man, experience demonstrates that men can be just as foolish as women in rendering verdicts. Women are needed in certain cases and needed badly; when good women are around men are at their best and their influence will bring up the level of the men.

"Another argument is that women will suffer because of unpleasant facts—we have women lawyers, women doctors, women nurses, they have not been deposed because of the unpleasant facts they have to face all the time.

"Some women do not want to serve, it is said. Do all men want to serve? They do not—hundreds of them—this is not a matter of sentiment, gentlemen. Certain men get exemption, so will certain women—if they have young children, if they are nursing the sick." Senator Joseph Allan Coad of St. Mary's County, interrupting Senator Levin's speech at this juncture, asked:

"Does not the demand for this bill originate wholly from a handful of ladies" (scorn, contempt and derision registered) "down here lobbying? I have not received one application from the women of St. Mary's County. Do you mean to tell me there is any great demand among cultured, high-minded women who are interested in their homes to serve on juries?" Senator Levin in answer read the names of the nineteen women's organizations endorsing the bill representing many thousands of *ladies* and then proceeded to say, "I do not say it as a threat but I would like to see you gentlemen back here at the next session and the women can surely vote as they certainly demonstrated at the last election. You should keep this in mind."

SENATOR W. EARLE WITHGOTT of Talbot County remarked: "The women in my county do not want to serve. I hope the Senate will *not* substitute the bill for the unfavorable report."

Senator Coad of St. Mary's interrupted again with: "Women are tempermental. Remember Miss Rankin who wept when Congress declared war. They have a different viewpoint—they should not hear such things."

"If there is a difference," declared Senator Levin, "then the litigants should have the benefit of it. Women are mentally and tempermentally as well fitted for jury service as men. Furthermore, the failure to have them on juries, prevents the juries from forming a real cross section of the community. Women should not hear such things! What about the young girl who had to tell twenty-three men on the Grand Jury the intimate details of an assault? How much better if a few women were on the jury.

"You are dealing with people who can vote, gentlemen—support the bill! Not only for that but for the justice of the thing—the bill should be substituted for the unfavorable report."

Then up rose Senator Edward J. Colgan, Jr., of the Third District, Baltimore City, and in a sentimental sob speech gathered all the yes men under his wing.

"Of course," he said, "women make good jurors, they make good in everything. I do not question their mentality. Nature herself has endowed women with all those attributes which makes them so lovable, but at the same time has imposed upon them a disability which absolutely precludes them from serving on juries. As a practicing lawyer of long experience, it does seem to me that calm, cold reason should be brought to bear on this question and we know, and these good ladies know, that one of the greatest impluses on earth is the influence of *sex appeal!* Every seasoned lawyer knows that a good looking woman has an effect upon the jury; sex appeal plays an important part in many a verdict.

"I defended a firm in a recent case where a pretty girl had brought suit for damages Although but slightly injured, the jury brought in a verdict for $10,000 in her favor. The next day the plaintiff received a note reading thus:

"'I should like to have the pleasure of meeting you tonight at 8 o'clock at the corner of Howard and Lexington streets.'

(Signed) "'YOUR LITTLE FOREMAN.'

"One of the greatest curses which affects both these houses is the professional paid lobbyists who swarm here urging the passage of bills—we should not heed them but should use our own judgment.

"We give the women everything—they rule the children, they rule the home, they rule the State, they rule the world—they have everything, but when they ask to serve on the juries, Gentlemen, I draw the line."

And so the bill was killed—the vote standing 24 to 3. The three champions were Senator Howard P. Spedden of Dorchester County and Senators Harry O. Levin, 22 Brooks Lane, and Daniel Boone Chambers, 3339 Windsor avenue, both of Baltimore City.

The women of Maryland feel that if the sight of a good-looking woman goes to the heads of the strong men of the State like new wine and they thereby become dippy, then it is high time that justice should be meted out with calm, cold reason à la Colgan, and the sooner the Jury Service Bill for women becomes a law the sooner will the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the transcendently beautiful and the otherwise of both sexes, receive their just deserts.

The same day the Jury Service Bill died a violent death in the Senate Chamber, the Equal Guardianship Bill was given a hearing before the House Judiciary Committee.

Burnita Shelton Matthews of Washington who presented the bill, was introduced by Dora G. Ogle, who said:

"We married mothers feel that our rights of guardianship should at least be equal to those of illegitimate mothers but as a matter of fact the illegitimate mothers have sole guardianship rights over their own children while we do not even have joint natural guardianship over our own children."

Burnita Shelton Matthews then presented the bill in her usual direct clear cut manner saying that the "bill speaks more eloquently for itself than I can speak for it."

ONE of the arguments brought forth by a member was that because the father supports the child he is entitled to "justic."

"The present bill is a travesty on justice," replied Mrs. Matthews, "and has not taken care of the woman in the home who takes care of the children and looks after her husband. When girls first went to school, the hue and cry was raised that girls did not want an education—why did they need an education? and then when baby carriages were invented—'the idea,' the people said, 'why the women will get too far from home.'" The committee asked questions about other States and also questions touching upon technicalities of the law to all of which Mrs. Matthews replied with a promptness that was most effective.

Elizabeth Forbes then brought a message to the committee from Lillian Forwood of Harford County, vice-chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, who is heartily in favor of the bill and also word from Annie Moisan of the Women's Democratic Club that the bill should be passed.

Mrs. George Burrows, president of the Republican Federation, came forward and said, "Gentlemen of the committee, the Republican Federation of Women feel that this bill should be passed."

Helen Elizabeth Brown of the Women Lawyers' Association made a strong plea in favor of the passage of the bill saying in part:

"The present guardianship laws of Maryland do a grave injustice to half of the citizens of this State. Under the laws of Maryland a mother is entitled to respect and reverence (if she can get it). How is a mother going to get respect and reverence from her children when she can't get it from the State which denies her her natural rights in spite of the fact that in an empty, sentimental way she is termed the backbone of the State in songs and stories. It is disgraceful that conditions exist that permit a child to tell his mother he will not go to the grocery store and he will not do any thing else she tells him because he learned in school that the law says he does not have to mind anybody but his father. With the State taking such an attitude, how is a child to have any reverence or respect for his mother?

"I resent the insult to my mother and you, gentlemen, ought to feel the same way about it. Your resentment ought to be more active and effective because you have the power to change these absurd and unjust conditions.

"You frequently hear a howl from press and pulpit about the decrease in the marriage license business. Complaints are made that women are not getting married and bringing up children. If the would-be reformers, who are always so willing and anxious to tell women what to do, had the intelligence to look beneath the surface for the real reasons, they would find just such treacherous laws as the present guardianship law among them. I know what I am talking about when I say that many women in Maryland today are not mothers because of it.

"Instead of sloppy sentiment, give the mothers of Maryland the justice that is their due by returning a favorable report on this measure. Then you will be able to go home and look your own wives and mothers in the face with a clear conscience."

LULA BUCH then came forward and made a stirring appeal, saying:

"I come in behalf of the women who are not organized. I am just a plain *hausfrau* living among the plain people, working among the plain people and I see every day the injustices caused by these unjust laws to wives and mothers. Progress is always up hill and I find that Maryland has to be dragged into all good things and you, gentlemen, have not only a great responsibility but a great privilege in furthering the cause of all mothers of this State for the sake of your own mothers. Just a few days ago a mother came to me for help—her boy was working, willing to help his mother but the father collects his earnings and spends the money in drink. I went to see the employer but he was helpless to prevent this—*it was the law.* We, as mothers, can own a cow, a horse, a house, but not our own flesh and blood."

Blanche Green, young, attractive, then made a plea which held the attention of the committee:

"I," she said, "speak to you from the standpoint of a widow. Since my husdan's death I am the sole guardian of my child and although I had one of the best of husbands, yet, at his death, I had a sense of security that I never had before. You, gentlemen, do not want your wives to feel resentment toward you while you live—do not want them to feel a sense of relief at your death—yet legally I have a sense of security because my child is my own. Think that over, gentlemen, and act accordingly."

Two days later, on March 14, the Equal Guardianship Bill passed the Senate unanimously on its second reading—so the Maryland Branch and all the various women's organizations endorsing the bill are taking heart and hoping that before the present legislature adjourns the bill will have been written into the laws of Maryland.

Increased Activity in Virginia

THE Virginia State Branch of the National Woman's Party is working with increased energy for the enactment of specific Equal Rights measures in the State as well as for the Equal Rights Amendment.

The following new officers were elected at a meeting of the State Branch in Richmond on March 9:

Mrs. Robert Hudson, chairman; Elsie McGeorge, first vice-chairman; Mrs. Walter Adams, second vice-chairman; Mrs. Hill Urquhart, third vice-chairman; Mrs. Percy S. Read, secretary; Mrs. William Sommerville, treasurer; Eunice Gregory, publicity chairman; Mrs. M. J. Dewitt, membership chairman, and Elsie McClintic, assistant membership chairman.

The advisory committee is composed of Mrs. Roy Flannagan, Mrs. N. Addison Baker, Mrs. C. T. Norman, Mrs. Frank P. Read, and Mrs. A. V. McGeorge. The committee in charge of entertainment are Mrs. Thomas Y. Syanoc, Mrs. Charles Mosby, and Mrs. Frank Danner. Mrs. Ben Lowenstein is legal advisor, and Julia Jennings, legislative chairman.

Miss Jennings presided at the March 9 meeting, and spoke on "The Necessity of Equal Rights."

The resolutions drawn up in memory of the late Sophie G. Meredith, who was State chairman, were read, and so was a sketch of her life, written by Vera Palmer.

Mary Moss Wellborn of Mississippi, who has been working in Washington and various State capitals for Equal Rights, summarized the work she has been doing, and the work being done throughout the country for Equal Rights between men and women. Miss Wellborn cited the fact that in a conversation recently James

Slemp (a nephew of C. Bascom Slemp of the Republican National Committee), who is a law student at the University of Virginia, told of the discussion in one of his law classes in which the inequalities between men and women under the law were taken up. In some cases the students found the law favors women, but it usually favors men, and the class finally came to the conclusion that absolute equality between men and women was the only basis upon which the law could work justly.

Other omens of the coming of Equal Rights, cited by Miss Wellborn, included the action of the Presbyterian Church in proposing to establish Equal Rights between men and women in the ministry and in church office, the usual results of intercollegiate debates on the Equal Rights Amendment, and the fact that many advocates of "protective" legislation for women are now admitting that laws prohibiting women to work for pay at night are not readily defensible. The action in the Presbyterian Church was taken by the General Council of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America and proposed a revision of the form of government in the church which would remove absolutely from the church law all distinction of sex. If the overture of the General Council is approved by the General Assembly, which meets in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 23, and is ratified by a majority of the 294 Presbyteries, the elimination of all discrimination against women in this church will be effected. Women will sit with full equality with men in all the judicial, executive and administrative bodies of the church, including local church sessions, and women will be entitled to serve as elders, evangelists and ministers. This action was taken by the General Council following an investigation of the status of women in the church by a special committee headed by Dr. Robert E. Speer of New York.

The press reports that the committee "was unanimous in concluding that there was no sound scriptural authority for the existing discrimination against women in the churches, and that to give them entire equality with men was just, right and Christian."

Miss Wellborn also reported that the president of Chatham Hall, a school for young women at Chatham, Virginia, had written to the National Woman's Party requesting information on the Equal Rights movement to present to his students, as he considers the work of great importance and is in sympathy with it.

The Virginia State Branch will have a banquet at the Richmond Hotel on April 9, at which members from all over the State will be present to hear Equal Rights discussed by national and State leaders.

The Branch is also discussing Equal Rights bills to be introduced in the Legislature, and is making a drive for new members.

During her visit to Richmond Miss Wellborn interviewed Governor Harry Flood Byrd on the question of Equal Rights. He expressed great interest in the Equal Rights Amendment, and said he hoped he could co-operate with the movement after he had made a study of the amendment.

A Lawyer Discusses the Domicile Bill

ROBERT H. RICHARDS of Wilmington, leading attorney of Delaware and an authority on constitutional law, has written the following letter to Florence Bayard Hilles, acting chairman of the Delaware State Branch of the National Woman's Party. His views on the bill to give the married woman equal freedom with the unmarried woman or the man to establish her domicile at the place where she lives are made public with his consent.

"I acknowledge receipt of the bill providing that 'the legal residence of a married woman shall be determined as if she were unmarried.'

"As you will recall, you had this bill drafted in accordance with my suggestion. I think the bill is a very proper one and should be enacted into law by the Legislature. It has no connection, of course, with the women's suffrage question. Such a bill should have been passed by the Legislature before the amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving to women the right to vote.

"A century and a half or more ago a married woman had almost no rights whatsoever. Immediately upon her marriage, all her property, real and personal, became the property of her husband and she had no rights even to her own earnings if she worked at service or in a factory or elsewhere. The law required her each night to hand her wages over to her husband upon her return home. At that time a woman could not sue her husband nor be sued by him. They were in all respects deemed to be, in legal contemplation, one person. Consequently, being one person, there could be but one residence and the residence of the husband was deemed the residence of the wife. This condition of the law changed long before women acquired the right to vote. For many years back the Legislature of this State has been, from time to time, passing what we have called 'Married Women's Acts.' The purpose of these acts has been to restore various rights to married women. This progress of the law developed before women acquired the right to vote, to the point that a married woman could own any property she liked and it did not become the property of her husband, she could engage in business and have her own earnings or was entitled to her own wages and could sue her husband or be sued by him. In other words, she was in all practical effects the same as a single woman so far as her property rights, *et cetera,* were concerned.

"After this point had been reached in the development of the law, the next proper step, regardless of the acquisition of the right to vote, was the enactment of a statute abrogating the old common law rule that a married woman's residence is that of her husband's. There are ample reasons why this should be done. For instance, in our own State, our divorce laws provide that the petitioner for divorce must have been a resident of the State for two years before bringing the suit. Where a Delaware woman has married someone from outside of the State and has lived with her husband for a certain length of time outside of the State and for reasons perfectly good has left him, or has found that she is unable to live with him, or he has left her and she returns to the State of her original home, when she files a petition for divorce after having been back in Delaware for two years or, in a case where she has married and gone outside of the State with her husband, who has traveled around and never lived for any length of time at any place, and his wife has returned to Delaware and brings a suit for divorce within two years after her return, claiming always to have been a resident of Delaware and never to have acquired a residence elsewhere, the husband can make the contention that the residence of the wife is that of her husband and that she is not a resident of the State of Delaware and the courts of Delaware have no jurisdiction. Whether the courts would sustain this contention or not, I do not know, but it has been made and is now pending in a case in court, and the law should be cleared up so that no such question could be raised.

"This bill has nothing to do with the duty of a wife to live with her husband, nor does it have anything to do with the right of the husband to choose a domicile for his family, provided such domicile is reasonable and proper. The bill relates merely to the question of residence and so far as I can see there is no good reason why it should not be passed and a number of reasons why it would be of benefit."

Press Comment

Women's Athletics

New York Times, February 11, 1929.

TEAMS of women hockey players, baseball players or track athletics are not numerous as compared with the numbers of men engaged in sports, but there are more of them all the time. There are enough now so that educators and directors of physical activities in girls' schools are bound to consider the conflicting opinions of parents and other outsiders. A short time ago Miss Ethel Perrin had an article in *Sportmanship* in which she said that "girls are not suited for the same athletic programs as boys," due to biological differences. In the February number of the same magazine Dr. Clarence C. Little presents an argument on the other side.

He believes that it is desirable to expect of women just as much in the way of physical achievement as from men, if one takes into consideration the natural difference in their strength. If you give a man an arbitrary unit of strength, say 100, and a woman a comparative unit, say 80, why should she not be expected to develop to her full physical capacity? Many women, particularly those in college, will probably agree that she should. The old admiration for the clinging-vine type is disappearing among women, though men still keep their own sense of vanity and enjoy the idea of protecting a woman. It is difficult to get over the idea that the fortunate or successful woman is the one who does not have to exert herself. Not so long ago drudgery and hard physical labor were the portion of most women in this country. To be able to avoid work was a sign of advancement. The change in attitude of many young women toward physical development is the more remarkable because it is so recent and yet so strong.

Among the conservative who still protest are varying degrees of feeling. Some think that wearing appropriately short and bifucated clothes and playing rough games will make girls unladylike. Others are willing to have them athletic, but think they should not take part in competitive games. Intercollegiate contests are particularly undesirable in the view of some, who admit that competitions within the institution are quite right. The idea of drawing thousands of spectators, as the men's football games and track meets do, is revolting to some who nevertheless believe firmly in athletics for women. Dr. Little thinks there is small danger of that: "It hardly seems that women are infantile enough to place that over-emphasis on their intercollegiate contests which men have frequently placed on theirs."

That remains to be seen. But it hardly seems likely that throngs of men would go to see women's feats when they could see so much better performances by men. As for the crowds of women who would attend women's meets, they follow the football and basketball teams around the country now. It would not be any more stupid to follow their own teams, and they might derive greater moral and physical benefits through the example set them by members of their own sex.

Feminist Notes

"Flapper Voters" Are Workers

A WIRELESS dispatch to the New York *Times* from London states that 95 per cent. of the five and a quarter million new women voters added to the election registers by the new Equal Franchise measure are engaged in some sort of gainful occupations. Probably not more than 200,000 of the "flapper voters" recently enfranchised belong to the "women of leisure" class, which the *Times* quotes Lady Rhondda as calling "a menace to civilization." One-seventh of the new voters are domestic workers, according to the *Times* estimate.

Joan London Demands Equality

SPEAKING before the Montclair (New Jersey) Woman's Club on the subject, "Do Women Rule America?" Joan London, daughter of Jack London, declared that even with the vote, women are still discriminated against.

"We have gone ahead in a constructive way, but we are still fighting to establish ourselves as equals; not in identity, but in equal opportunities," she said.

More Women Professors

STANFORD UNIVERSITY has appointed two more women to full professorship, making the total four women from the founding of the university in 1891. All four are engaged in scientific work. The two promoted this year are Clara S. Stoltenberg in the anatomical department, and Bertha Stuart Dyment, medical adviser of women. EQUAL RIGHTS announced last August the promotion of Dr. Clelia D. Mosher of the department of personal hygiene and the earlier advancement of Dr. Lillian J. Martin, psychologist. Three of these appointments have been made during the presidency of Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur.

Gains for South African Suffrage

THE Nationalist opposition to woman's suffrage in South Africa is weakening, according to the *International Woman Suffrage News.* General Smuts favors making votes for women one of the principal planks of the South African Party's platform in the next election. Minister of Finance Havenga of the Nationalist Party has been converted to woman suffrage for the women of the Union of South Africa, the magazine reports.

Australian Woman Appointed

AMELIA MACDONALD, J.P., of Perth, Western Australia, has been appointed president of the Australian Auxiliary Immigration Council.

Parliamentary Candidates

IN England the Labor Party has taken the lead in nominating women for Parliament, there being twenty-eight prospective women candidates in that party, sixteen in the Liberal Party, seven in the Conservative Party, and one in the Communist Party. There may be many more before the general election is held.

Women Jurors in England

LAST year 85,969 persons were called to jury service in England and Wales. Of these 17,345 were women, a proportion of about one in five. Within this total there are some sharp variations of the sex ratio. For instance, in the case of grand juries, out of 15,536 jurors, only 1,285 or about one in twelve were women. On special juries the ratio was 8,239 men; 2,204 women, or about one in four and a half. The largest proportion of women to men was found in the case of common juries. Localities show similar, or rather, more striking variations. In the City of London the proportion of women called was one in sixty-eight. In Lancashire it was roughly one in four and a half.

What a Concession!

THE Metropolitan Asylums Board (England) has agreed that five married women should be appointed to the board's permanent staff, "notwithstanding the fact that they are married."

Dutch Woman Appointed

DR. C. FRIDA KATZ has been appointed member of the General Council for the Care of the Mentally Diseased in the Netherlands.

Equal Rights for Cooks

THE National Congress of Spanish Cooks adopted a resolution at its session in January demanding equal salaries for male and female chefs.

News from the Field

At Headquarters

MYRTLE CAIN, former member of the Minnesota Legislature, is staying at National Headquarters of the Woman's Party. She is an ardent advocate of Equal Rights between men and women in industry, and is prominent in the labor movement as well as in the Feminist movement.

Hearings Reported on Air

REPORTS of the hearings on the Equal Rights Amendment before a Senate sub-committee and the hearings before the New York Legislature on the Equal Domicile bill were given over the radio by Susan H. B. Gray, treasurer of the Colorado State Branch of the National Woman's Party, on March 6. The Colorado State Branch broadcasts on alternate Wednesday evenings for 15 minutes. Statements of Ganna Walska, Inez Haynes Irwin, and Jane Norman Smith on the Equal Domicile bill were read by Mrs. Gray.

International Demand for Industrial Equality

JANE NORMAN SMITH, national chairman of the National Woman's Party, has accepted an invitation from the Open Door Council (England) to join with members of that body and women in other countries in calling a meeting of women in Berlin, Germany, in June to form an international unit to work for industrial equality between men and women.

The purposes of the Open Door Council are stated as follows:

> "Object: To secure that women shall be free to work and protected as workers on the same terms as men, and that legislation and regulations dealing with conditions and hours, payment, entry and training shall be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker.
>
> "And to secure for women, irrespective of marriage or childbirth, the right at all times to decide whether or not they shall engage in paid work, and to ensure that no legislation or regulations shall deprive them of this right."

At the time of the meeting of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Paris in 1926, a number of women supporting the aims of the Open Door Council formed an international committee to see what could be done to promote these objects internationally and in the respective countries of the women joining the committee. Since that time, the Open Door Council has been well established in England, and this group is taking the initiative in calling a meeting in Berlin at the time when the International Alliance for suffrage and Equal Citizenship (formerly the International Woman Suffrage Alliance) meets there.

Headquarters will be established at a Berlin hotel, and a public meeting will be held at some time not conflicting with meetings of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. Meetings organizing the international group will also be held prior to the meeting of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

A group is now being organized in Germany to join the proposed international body. A similar task may be undertaken in this country, and in other countries.

International work for industrial equality becomes increasingly important with the International Labor Organization, connected with the League of Nations, at Geneva, proposing numerous restrictions on women's work.

Chrystal MacMillan of England is chairman of the international committee of the Open Door Council. Helen A. Archdale visited the United States last year on a tour around the world in the interests of this international movement, and remained in Washington to work with the Inter-American Commission of Women for some months.

Equal Labor Law in France

THE French minimum wage law for workers in home industries, formerly affecting women only, has been amended to apply to workers of both sexes who do work for the garment industry in their homes, *Le Droit des Femmes* reports, and comments that it is to be hoped that the law, which formerly was poorly enforced, partly for the reason that men had no interest in it, will be adequately enforced in the future.

As the eight-hour day is the rule in the garment industry, the minimum wage will now have to be based upon eight hours instead of upon ten, as it was when it applied only to women.

Celebrating Inauguration

THE Palo Alto (California) Branch of the National Woman's Party celebrated the inaugural of Charles Curtis, sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment, as Vice-President of the United States on March 4. Alice Park presided at the meeting, and reported on the progress of International Feminism as well as developments showing the disadvantages to working women of industrial legislation applying to women only.

Mrs. Park said that March 4 was an especially appropriate time for observance of the progress of Equal Rights, as the man who introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in the Senate was inaugurated Vice-President on that day.

Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

EMMA WOLD, *Treasurer*
NETTIE TRAIL, C. P. A., *Auditor*

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to March 1, 1929, $1,477,714.57.

Contributions, membership and other receipts, March 1 to 16, 1929:

Miss Laura Berrien, D. C	$50.00
Mrs. Pope Yeatman, Pa	50.00
Per California Branch: (California Branch retaining one-half)	
Miss Carol Rehfisch	.50
Mrs. Beatrice Kinkead	.50
Mrs. Sylvia Thygesson	.50
Mrs. Josephine Rand Rogers	.50
Miss Ora Bering	.50
Miss Anita Stanton	.50
Miss Esther McLaughlin, N. Y	1.00
Miss Alma Lutz, Mass	10.00
Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa	5.00
Mrs. Emma Faris, Kan	1.00
Per Maryland Branch	30.00
Miss Lillian Blaisdell, Md	1.00
Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, N. Y	75.00
Mrs. Ruth Vandeer Litt, N. Y. (4,200 francs)	197.18
Mrs. Rita Lydig, N. Y. (3,000 francs)	117.88
Mrs. Ella Brackett Bishop, Ill. (300 francs)	11.79
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Mrs. Edwin L. Lobdell, Ill	20.00
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Mrs. Alys Lorrain	.50
Mrs. Marion Felix Jones	.50
Miss Marion Cate	.50
Sale of glossies of Headquarters	1.50
Refunds	16.03
EQUAL RIGHTS subscriptions (forwarded to EQUAL RIGHTS office)	38.50
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	755.25
	$1,587.13
Per Equal Rights Committee: Dr. Donald R. Hooker, Md	600.00
Total receipts, March 1 to 16, 1929	$2,187.13
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to March 16, 1929	$1,479,901.70

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Printers
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